

Boosters Sway Today When Naps Make Their Final Appearance

MULLIN TO PITCH FIRST GAME AGAINST CLEVELAND

Birmingham Expects to Make Up Ground Here His Team Lost in Philadelphia.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

The first appearance of the Cleveland team on the local grounds today is to be a gala occasion. Not only are the Naps a splendid attraction, but it is Boosters' day, and there will be a band concert and other attractions in the way of displaying real rooting.

Manager Griffith has chosen George Mullin to face the Naps, and it is more than likely that Willie Mitchell, who one day last week pitched a brilliant game against the Athletics, will oppose him. Mitchell, who is successful against most teams, has won but few games from the Nationals. Somehow or other, he has not been so effective against the locals, and Griffith believes that Mullin will be able to beat him today.

After losing three out of four to the Athletics, Manager Birmingham believes that his team will make up the ground it lost in Mackville during his first game. He figures that the superior batting privileges of the Naps will more than offset anything that the Nationals can present during the series here, while Griffith is of the opinion that his pitchers will be able to hold the visitors in check.

He proposes to use Walter Johnson tomorrow and the following day, who made such a good showing against the Naps in the game played in Cleveland Sunday. Today's game will be called at 2:30.

The present series may decide whether the Nationals shall occupy third place or not by the time the western teams leave the east. While the Nationals are hooked up with Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox will play a four-game series in Philadelphia. The Sox are only a few points behind the Athletics and that of the locals against Cleveland will come pretty near to deciding the question of which team is entitled to third place for the time being.

Had Bob Groom received good support he could not have lost yesterday's game. The only run that the Sox were entitled to was the one resulting from Bodie's high fly over the right-field fence. The other three visitors scored were gifts resulting from errors behind Groom. All the breaks went against Groom. The visitors not only were given three runs of their four, but on several occasions when the Nationals had a chance to score runs the ball was hit right at one of the waiting feliers, and thus instead of hits resulted. The two runs which the visitors scored in the third inning came from two errors and a chance to retire the side had been offered. Mr. Bodie dropping Morgan's assist of an ugly bounding batter, after which the visitors' first run.

In the fifth inning contributed a run by allowing Russell's single to slip through his legs, the pitcher missing the circuit before the ball could be recovered, and the final run resulted from Bodie's fly over the right-field wall.

It seems an outrage that a player who has been of as much value to his team as has Foster should be roundly rebuffed because after an absence from the game of two months he fails to play up to his standard. None of Foster's



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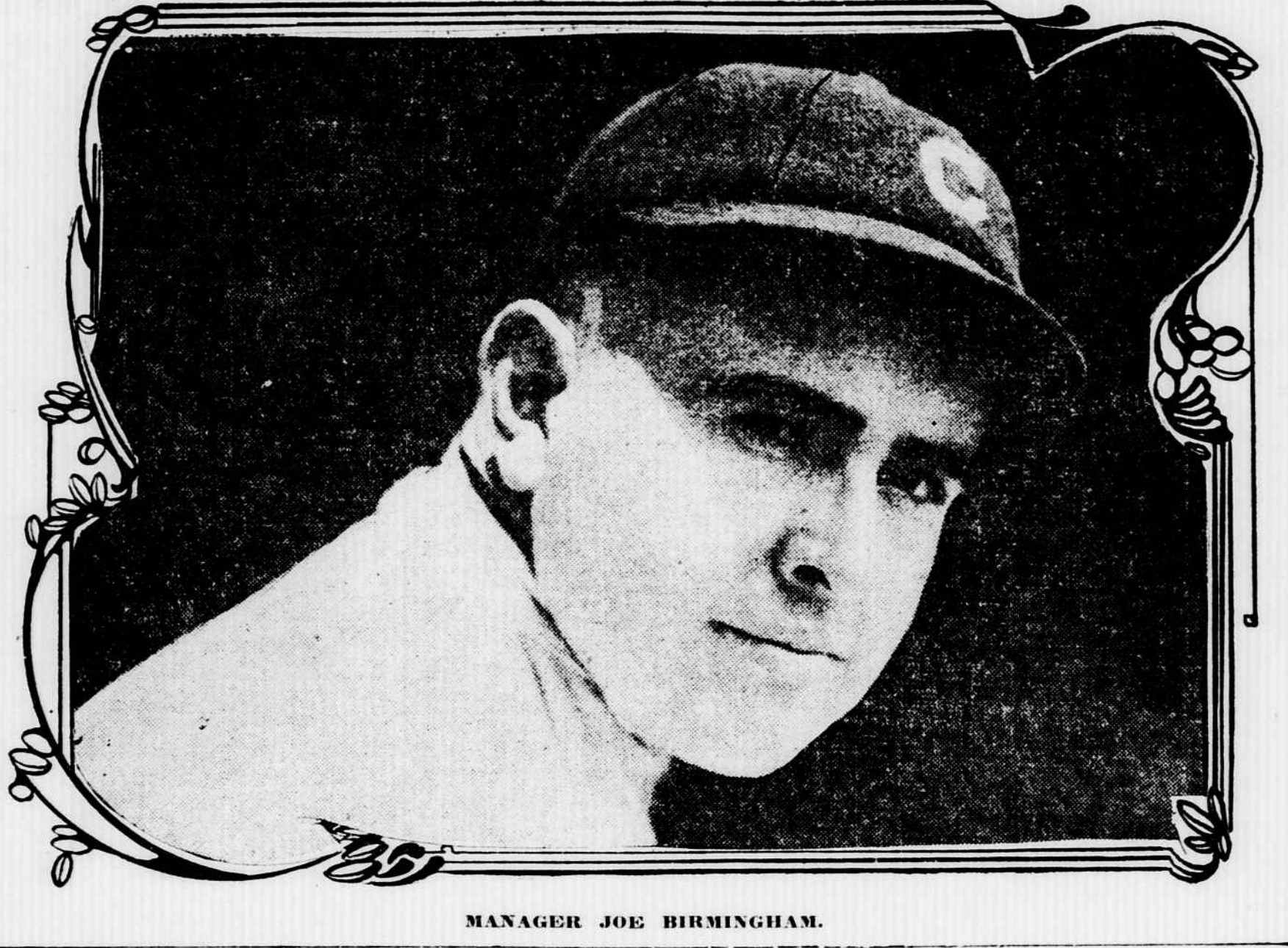
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SOON WILL BAR ALL PLAYING WRITERS

Ban Johnson Says if National League Doesn't Act Commission Will.

BIG CHIEF TALKS ON LIVE BASE BALL AFFAIRS

Congress Investigation, the O'Connor Case and Like Matters Discussed.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, June 17.—Ban Johnson, president of the American League, arrived here yesterday on a tour of inspection, and paid his first visit to the Polo Grounds since Frank Chance's New Yorks began playing there.

Asked about the talk of a Congress investigation of the so-called organized base ball trust, he said: "If an investigation is intended we are ready. In fact, we have always been ready. For we have nothing to conceal. But personally I don't believe Congress will take action. If the lawmakers mean business, however, they ought to begin now instead of talking so much. The whole thing is so absurd that even though I have just come from Washington I didn't take the trouble to talk it over with any persons who seem to be interested."

"Horace Fogel appears to be the only one eager to have base ball probed. If he has any evidence we are not aware of the fact. What has the national commission done about ball player authors?" Johnson was asked.

"The American League has suppressed them," was the reply. "And I understand that President Lynch of the National League has had some correspondence with President Henshaw of the Giants regarding the articles purporting to be written and signed by McGraw, Matthews, Marquand and Meyers."

"If these players are not prevented from doing further newspaper work you can see that the commission will take a hard line with new legislation. That may not happen until late in the year, however, but one thing is certain, ball players who pose as reporters will be barred from the press box during the world's series."

"Has Jack O'Connor bought suit against organized ball for \$25,000 damages?" Johnson was asked.

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"O'Connor was released because his services were no longer of value. That was all. But he should have been put out of our league long before his engagement with the St. Louis club expired. He helped to kill National League ball in Cleveland by his conduct."

"Are you having trouble with your umpire staff this year?" Johnson was asked.

"No. The staff is one of the best the American League ever has had. Jennings has been quoted as saying that some of our umpires are incompetent, but I don't believe he ever made such comments. The biggest wall has come from Washington. Some of the papers there have been some of the umpires lately. I went there quietly Friday and saw

OWN SHIP FOR WORLD TOURING BALL TEAMS

NEW YORK, June 17.—The latest plan for the world tour of the Giants and White Sox next winter is for the teams and the accompanying party to charter their own ship and go all the way around in it. The idea has been suggested to Comiskey by Ban Johnson, who was here yesterday. The American League president has talked with steamship officials and says a vessel can be had.

He thinks about 200 persons would make the trip in the special boat, and says the cost per person of the trip would be reduced to about \$1,200. Ban expects to go along, and if he does will call the annual meeting of the American League for November, so he can catch the boat. Johnson says if the ship does go to the antipodes he will come home from China, as he doesn't want to be away three or four months.

Chance Is Man of Hour.

"Chance is the man of the hour. He is slowly building up a winning team. I was surprised to learn that he had traded Chase for Borton and Zeider, but I believe the trade has benefited both teams. Chase will take a brace with the White Sox, and Borton and Zeider will help wonderfully here. Chance could have had Fourmier instead of Borton, but he chose the latter, and I think his judgment will be vindicated as soon as Borton begins to hit, as I know he can. Zeider is a great inside player. If Comiskey had had his own way Zeider would not have been let out of the White Sox, but there was friction between Zeider and Callahan, and the latter carried his point."

"I am delighted to learn that Catcher Gossett has made a hit here. I never saw him play, but I believe Chance to put in a claim for him. Comiskey bought him from St. Joseph for \$2,500, but had no room for him with Schalk catching so well."

"So you think the Athletics will win the pennant?" Johnson was asked.

"Base ball is uncertain and anything may happen between now and October. Comiskey tells me that the reason the Athletics have remained at the top of the heap so far is the comparatively weak resistance of the other teams in the circuit. The Cleveland have a fine team, also good pitchers. The Washingtons and Boston Red Sox, I feel sure, will be indicated from before long."

"Are you going to try to help the New Yorks?" Johnson was asked.

"I read today that Mack has six out of seven batters and doesn't want to part with any of them. If Chance wants to buy one I am ready to plead his case with Mack, and the latter carried his point. A few days, Chance deserves all the assistance he can get. The New York base ball public also deserves consideration for the magnificent patronage of the American League in this city. I am confident, too, that the fans soon will be rewarded for their great patience and loyalty."

"Waddell driven from the mound" is the heading over a story of a tame Virginia in the Northern League recently. Ruben seems to have been treated roughly by the players of the Winnipeg team, who had no respect for his reputation. But you never can tell by the time this appears in print the Ruben may have pitched a fish-ning.

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STANDING, SCHEDULES AND RESULTS IN BIG BASE BALL LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE.				
Teams.	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss
Athletics..	40	12	.769	.774 .755
Cleveland..	36	19	.655	.661 .643
Nationals..	29	25	.537	.545 .527
Chicago....	29	26	.526	.544 .526
Boston....	26	25	.510	.519 .500
Detroit....	23	34	.404	.414 .397
St. Louis..	21	39	.350	.361 .344
New York..	13	38	.255	.269 .250

NATIONAL LEAGUE.					
Teams.	W. L.	Pct.	Win.	Loss.	
Phila.	32	14	.681	.687	.666
New York. .	29	19	.604	.612	.593
Chicago.	30	25	.545	.554	.533
Brooklyn. .	25	23	.521	.531	.511
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	.472	.455
Boston.	22	27	.444	.460	.444
St. Louis. .	23	31	.426	.436	.422
Cincinnati. .	19	35	.352	.364	.345

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.	
Chicago...	4 Washington... 1
Philadelphia...	3 Cleveland... 2
Detroit...	5 New York... 3
Boston...	3 St. Louis... 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE.	
Chicago...	13 Philadelphia... 3
New York...	4 Cincinnati... 1
Boston...	6 Pittsburgh... 5
Brooklyn...	10 St. Louis... 5

SCHEDULES.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.	
TODAY.	TOMORROW.
Cleveland at Wash'n.	Cleveland at Wash'n.
Chicago at Phila.	Chicago at Phila.
St. Louis at New York.	St. Louis at New York.
Detroit at Boston.	Detroit at Boston.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.	
TODAY.	TOMORROW.
Boston at Pittsburgh.	Boston at Pittsburgh.
Brooklyn at St. Louis.	Brooklyn at St. Louis.
Phila. at Chicago.	Phila. at Chicago.

MINOR LEAGUE GAMES.

VIRGINIA LEAGUE.	
At Portsmouth.	0 1 0 1 0 3 0 3 0 11
Portsmouth...	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 0 3 6 3
Batteries—Rosen and Hughes; Ed and Lef.	

AT NEWPORT NEWS.	
Newport News...	0 1 0 2 0 0 1 4 7 2
Batteries—Carter and Matthews; Vance and Mace.	

AT NORFOLK.	
Norfolk...	2 3 0 4 1 0 2 2 1 15 18 2
Batteries—Brooks and Laughlin; Shenn, Ven-dine and Stewart.	

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.	
Baltimore...	3
Buffalo...	2
Montreal...	6
St. Paul...	11
St. Louis...	12
St. Paul...	11
St. Louis...	12

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.	
Minneapolis...	2
St. Paul...	1
St. Paul...	1
St. Paul...	1

TRI-STATE LEAGUE.	
Baltimore...	3
Buffalo...	2
Montreal...	6
St. Paul...	11
St. Louis...	12
St. Paul...	11
St. Louis...	12

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.	
Memphis...	2
Atlanta...	1
Montgomery...	1
Montgomery...	1

K. L. T. LEAGUE.	
Paducah...	1
Clarksville...	1
Clarksville...	1
Clarksville...	1

TEXAS LEAGUE.	
Dallas...	0
Garland...	0
Austin...	2
San Antonio...	0

COTTON STATES LEAGUE.	
Columbus...	5
Memphis...	0
Pensacola...	0
Jackson...	2

CAROLINA ASSOCIATION.	
Greensboro...	7
Winston-Salem...	7
Durham...	9

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE.	
Macon...	4
Savannah...	1
Charleston...	1

WESTERN LEAGUE.	
St. Joseph...	1
Des Moines...	1
Des Moines...	1

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BOOSTERS' MEETING IS WELL ATTENDED

Speeches Received With Enthusiasm and Much Good Will Is Evidenced.

About a thousand persons gathered in the Gayety Theater last night to evidence their intention to boost the Nationals at every opportunity. And they did show their disposition, because it is seldom that a more enthusiastic crowd has been drawn together. Addresses were made by those at the head of the club, and also by several who have just been followers of the team.

Perhaps the most interesting speech of the night was that made by Griffith. It was only a reiteration of what he has said before, but the crowd enjoyed it, and cheered him after time. Griffith thanked the men who have stood back of the club, and thanked them heartily. He said that he was going to do his best to give Washington a pennant winner, and that he expected to do just the same time. President Minor also made an appropriate address. "Cy" Cummings gave one of his orations, and several others made a few remarks. The words of the players who spoke were given very marked appreciation.

Today is Boosters' day. It is expected that a great crowd will go out to American League Park to give the Nationals a hand in their first game with the Naps. The following is a letter received from Mr. Hoover, who has been the originator of the Boosters' movement, in which he expresses his appreciation of the aid given by the papers:

It is up to me to thank, through the papers, the hearty support of the Boosters' mass meeting at the Gayety Theater last night by the loyal fans of Washington. D. C. I am sure that if it had not rained we would have filled 9th and F streets with fans. As it was, we had a packed house. Every one present enjoyed himself and was glad he was there. I am sure every one has the thanks of those who conducted the mass meeting, for the demonstration of the feeling, and nothing could show it better than the attendance. I also thank the opportunity to thank each and every man who helped to organize the Boosters, as it was owing to their efforts that the movement attained the grand success it has met. I certainly appreciate the response received by every individual whom I called upon in organizing the Boosters' Club. That it will be a permanent organization is evident.

I am sure that every man who had the pleasure of listening to the many speakers must have gotten some new thought in regard to boosting that he will never forget, and will pass it on to others. On the whole, the Boosters are a success; we are here, here in bunches, and here to stay. We are going to be game, loyal rooters, just as we are a bunch, pledged ourselves last night, and I am sure that pledge was from the heart. Now, boys, it is up to us to make our selves evident at every game in a good, clean, gentlemanly way. Be as noisy as you please, but keep our boosting clean. Once more I am going to thank the sporting editors, and I will say I never met a more loyal bunch of Boosters than connected with our Washington press. They are good, game, loyal friends of the team, and their papers that the Boosters' movement has been a success. I am in thanking them for their loyal support of our game little team. Yours for clean, manly, manly boosting. ROOSTER BILL ROOVER.

RICKART RESIGNS.

Browns Secretary Officially Quits Office.

ST. LOUIS, June 17.—Formal announcement was made yesterday of the resignation of Lloyd Rickart, secretary of the St. Louis American League club. No formal announcement was made as to whether Rickart received a bonus for retiring, but it is stated on good authority that he will receive four months' salary. It is understood that Rickart is a nephew of President Hedges of the St. Louis club, will succeed Rickart. In fact, President Hedges said that for two years Mason practically had done the work of secretary.

Believe Mr. Rickart feels he has climbed as high as he ever would get in the St. Louis club," said Mr. Hedges, "and that, therefore, he decided to quit. There is nothing the matter, and I am sorry to lose him."

Pirates Sign No-Hit Collegian.

PITTSBURGH, June 17.—As a result of the hunt for timber with which to bolster up the Pirates' pitching staff another college player has been added to the list. The newcomer is R. B. Ezell, a graduate of Clemson College, South Carolina. Ezell has the reputation of being one of the best college pitchers in the south. He shut out Erskine College in nine innings April 14, allowing not a single hit.

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PERTINENT COMMENT ON Happenings in Sportdom

When the great pitchers of the two major leagues are considered Eddie Plank must not be overlooked. Remarkable, indeed, has been the work of the veteran left-hander during the past two seasons. While always an artist, Plank has been helped by tolerating abusive language hurled from the stand.

There are only rare instances where a ball player is not always trying his best. He may fail, yet he is giving the club his best efforts, and the circumstances are he deserves of the kind of criticism that some patrons of the game insist on inflicting on him. It is very easy to understand that a player who receives encouragement stands a better chance to deliver the goods than one who is constantly being abused for his shortcomings. Ball clubs have long since realized the fact that the game has been helped by tolerating abusive language hurled from the stand.

Plank would be hard to be replaced. He is in a class by himself as a left-handed pitcher and Connie Mack would have his hands full trying to find a twirler who could fill the hole which Plank's retirement would create in his team.

Though Joe Birmingham has really had but a few years' experience in major league base ball, he has proved himself a most competent leader in the short while that he has handled the Cleveland team. Under his regime the Naps have been changed from a rather listless aggregation to one of hustle and nerve, which means that any system of play which he may have adopted has been responsible for the team's splendid showing.

Birmingham had much to contend with when he took charge of the team. It was a badly disheartened aggregation when Harry Davis dropped the reins, yet in a very short space of time Birmingham got his team working as a ball team should.

His showing has been an excellent one, and Cleveland is sure to play a prominent part in the coming races of the American League so long as Birmingham keeps up his present pace in handling his players.

The Boston Red Sox appear to be moving in the same line. They are playing a better grade of ball now than it has previously this season, and, though still far behind the leaders, threaten to be prominent from this out. The very fact that Joe Wood is for the first time this season beginning to show his best form promises much for the champions, and while it may be too remote a chance to speak of the team's performance at any time, yet it is sure to have to be reckoned with during the remainder of this season.

Ban Johnson's ruling against the players' union has been a prominent feature with general favor. In the first place, it is an imposition on the public who are being asked to pay for the players' salaries. It is feared that the articles signed by prominent players are mostly not do without the handicap of Horace.